

At page 54, line 15, insert the following two paragraphs describing new Figures 18 and 19:

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FIG. 18 depicts a perspective view of a fibrous nonwoven web 60 comprising apertures 61, as in FIG. 14, except that the apertured web 60 is now shown joined to a textured basesheet 1 and the assembly is in contact with an underlying absorbent core 5. Apertures 61 in the nonwoven web 60 are substantially aligned with the depressed regions 4 of the basesheet 1. The nonwoven web 60 serves as a hydrophobic matter 2 on the most elevated portions 3 of the basesheet 1.

FIG. 19 depicts a cross-sectional view of an apertured basesheet 1 similar to that of the basesheet 1 of FIG. 5 except that the perforations 27 (apertures in the basesheet) have been formed in a manner that creates protrusions 70 extending from the lower portion of the basesheet and surrounding the apertures 70. The protrusions 70 can be wet resilient if formed in a moist state and dried.

Due to changes in pagination of the specification required by the foregoing insertions, a substitute (clean) copy of the entire specification reflecting all the foregoing amendments is enclosed.

In The Drawings

Add new Figures 18 and 19, enclosed. NE

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-8; 10-15 and 18-39 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter claimed thereby. Claims 9, 16 and 17 are retained.

Please amend claim 9 as follows:

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9. (Amended) [The absorbent web of claim 1 further comprising hydrophobic matter] An absorbent web having a dry feel when wet comprising:
- a) an inherently hydrophilic basesheet comprising papermaking fibers and having an upper surface and a lower surface, said upper surface having elevated and depressed regions further characterized by a Wet Compressed Bulk of about 5 or greater; and
 - b) hydrophobic matter deposited preferentially on the elevated regions of the upper surface of said basesheet and on a portion of the lower surface of said basesheet.

Please add the following new claims:

40. (New) The absorbent web of claims 9 or 16 wherein said web is a wet-laid tissue sheet.
41. (New) The absorbent web of claims 9 or 16 wherein said web is an airlaid structure.
42. (New) The absorbent web of claim 9 further characterized by a Wet Springback Ratio of about 0.7 or greater.
43. (New) The absorbent web of claim 9 wherein the hydrophobic matter is discontinuous.
44. (New) The absorbent web of claims 9 or 16 further characterized by a Rewet value of about 0.65 g or less and a Normalized Rewet value of about 0.6 or less.
45. (New) The absorbent web of claim 9 wherein said web has an Overall Surface Depth of about 0.2 mm or greater, an In-Plane Permeability of at least 0.5×10^{-10} m², and a Wet Compressed Bulk of about 5 cc/g or greater.
46. (New) The absorbent web of claim 9 wherein said hydrophobic matter comprises synthetic fibers fixedly attached to the upper surface of said basesheet such that about 50% or less of the surface area of the basesheet is covered with the synthetic fibers.
47. (New) The absorbent web of claim 9 further comprising hydrophobic matter on a portion of the lower surface of said basesheet.
48. (New) The absorbent web of claims 9 or 16 wherein said web has an Overall Surface Depth of about 0.2 mm or less while dry and an Overall Surface Depth of about 0.3 mm or greater when wetted to a moisture content of 100%.
49. (New) The absorbent web of claims 9 or 16 wherein said web has a wet:dry tensile ratio of at least 0.1.
50. (New) The absorbent web of claim 9 wherein said elevated regions comprise from 5 to 300 protrusions per square inch having a characteristic height of at least 0.2 mm relative to said depressed regions.

51. (New) The absorbent web of claim 9 wherein at least 30% of the upper surface of said basesheet remains substantially free of hydrophobic matter and said web has a Rewet value of 0.6 g or less.
52. (New) The absorbent web of claim 9 wherein essentially all of said hydrophobic matter resides above the 50% material line of a characteristic cross-section of said web.
53. (New) The absorbent web of claims 9 further comprising superabsorbent particles attached to said web.
54. (New) The absorbent web of claims 9 or 16 wherein said web is further characterized by a wet:dry tensile strength ratio of at least about 0.1 or greater and a Wet Springback Ratio of about 0.55 or greater.
55. (New) The absorbent web of claims 9 or 16 further characterized by a Rewet value of about 0.65 g or less and a Normalized Rewet value of about 0.6 or less, said web further comprising about 20% or greater by weight high yield pulp fibers.
56. (New) The absorbent web of claim 9 wherein said basesheet further comprises apertures and said lower surface of the basesheet further comprises wet-resilient protrusions adjacent said aperture.

A clean version of the pending claims is attached and made a part hereof.